CALL FOR YOUTH LEADERS AGES 15-19:  APPLICATION FOR OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY PUBLIC HEALTH (OHA-PH) YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (YAC)

Are between the ages of 15-19? Are you interested in having a say in the future of public health in Oregon?

Please apply to our OHA’S Youth Advisory Council!

***View CALL FOR APPLICATION FOR OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL in Spanish: Here.***

**What is a Youth Advisory Council?**

A youth advisory council (YAC) is a youth-led decision-making and service body that helps an organization make decisions affecting youth. YACs can have different structures, compositions, and decision-making authority – but the goal is to empower youth to lead policy and program development. Here are a couple of short videos describing example YACs across the state and country:

-         <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6HZvS61eJY>  (Hillsboro, OR)

-         <https://comicrelief.org/youth-advisory-council>  (Comic Relief)

-         <https://vimeo.com/226931555> (Muskegon County, MI)

-         <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1x4aLalotQ&t=1s> (More general explanation of government board and commissions, including youth advisory committee in Tigard, OR)

**Who We Are**

A diverse group of youth in Oregon from different counties working on various health and wellness topics. Our equity statement has become central to the work that we do as it has driven all our major decisions.

*As the Oregon Health Authority’s Youth Advisory Council, we recognize and prioritize the challenges youth face, especially when it comes to youth well-being. We also acknowledge and emphasize the importance of inclusivity within communities and strive to make youth-informed decisions that values human life. We do this for the future of Oregon youth, and to promote diversity, safety, stability, quality of life, and the rights of every human being. Our goal is to improve communities’ health across the entirety of Oregon by offering youth feedback on policy, distribution of funds, and more to reach the goals listed above.*

If you would like to get to know us better check out this video we made about youth voice:

[OHA-PHD YAC Youth Engagement – How Adults Can Work Well with Youth](https://www.youtube.com/watch?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&v=Q7V3v15tIko&feature=youtu.be)

**Past Projects**

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is looking for youth leaders to join a Youth Advisory Council (YAC) for the 2024-2025 school year.

During the 2022-2023 school year, the first cohort of the YAC consisting of 20 youth from across Oregon informed OHA on how to spend $1,000,000 in COVID-19 Recovery Funds for schools.

During the 2023-2024 school year, the second cohort of the YAC consisting of 26 youth from across Oregon worked to build internal infrastructure for years to come, including creating the council’s charter. Additional projects that the second cohort were apart of are detailed below:

* Disbursed additional COVID-19 Recovery Funds to the top YAC grant recipients from previous cohort who most closely aligned with the YAC’s goals and mission.
* Developed a partnership with the Governor’s office.
* Partnered with programs across Public Health to advise on projects and offer youth insight.
* Members worked on a project for Minor Consent and Confidentiality rights in order to develop a product to help inform youth across the state on their rights in healthcare settings.

During the 2024 - 2025 school year, the YAC will:

* **Work with the public health department to develop program and policy recommendations that impact youth all over Oregon. The policy recommendations will be youth-led and driven.**
* **Create subcommittees to explore and address new projects and initiatives within the scope of the OHA YAC.**
* **Interested in data analysis, research skills and/or surveys? Providing input to the Student Health Survey, seen** [**here**](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/SURVEYS/Pages/student-health-survey.aspx)**.**

**OHA’s Commitment to Health Equity:**

OHA is committed to seeking participation on this council from youth from communities most impacted by health inequities, including youth of color, youth from tribal communities, youth with disabilities, youth experiencing housing instability, youth from immigrant communities, and youth who are LGTBQ2SIA+. OHA will provide the youth advisory council with the overarching goal to advance health equity through their work. OHA defines health equity as:

*“Oregon will have established a health system that creates health equity when all people can reach their full health potential and well-being and are not disadvantaged by their race, ethnicity, language, disability, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, social class, intersections among these communities or identities, or other socially determined circumstances.*

*Achieving health equity requires the ongoing collaboration of all regions and sectors of the state, including tribal governments to address:* *The equitable distribution or redistribution of resources and power; and* *recognizing, reconciling and rectifying historical and contemporary injustices.”*

**What will be expected of youth serving on the OHA Youth Advisory Council?**

OHA will appoint up to 25 youth to serve on the YAC for the 2024 – 2025 school year. Youth are eligible to serve a consecutive two year term if they choose. Youth will be expected to:

* Attend 2.5-hour YAC meetings once or twice per month depending on the project.
* Spend about 3-5 additional hours a month on council activities, such as attending a subcommittee on a topic that you are passionate about.
* Attend two full day retreats.
* All meetings will be virtual attendance.

**Who is eligible?**

* Any youth ages 15 to 19 at time of application.
* Must live in Oregon.

**What is in it for you(th)?**

Youth who serve on the Youth Advisory Council will receive:

* + **$45/hr** stipend for all time spent on council activities. Youth will have a choice of direct deposit to a bank account, or selection of gift cards. Please note that OHA will require tax forms (W-4).
  + Community service hours – youth may receive community service hours in place of funding/compensation if they prefer, and/or if they are unable to receive funding/compensation for participation.
  + Mentorship from state public health officials and adult community partners.
  + Trainings on youth-adult partnership and health equity.
  + Learning opportunities and professional development related to public health, education, and community support.
  + The chance to make a positive difference in the lives of Oregon youth.
  + Connection with youth from across the state who have a passion for public health.

**Anticipated Timeline for Applications**

June 3rd: Applications Open

June 26th: Applications Close

July 22nd – 26th: New Applicant Conferences Scheduled

August 14th: Appointment Notices Sent

August 26th: First meeting of the Oregon Health Authority Youth Advisory Council

**New Applicant Conferences Notice**

The new applicant conference portion of the recruitment process is designed to be a friendly “get to know you” conversation. Current YAC members will be present in new member applicant conferences. Questions for this portion will be sent to applicants 2 weeks in advance in order to allow time to prepare.

**APPLICATION PORTAL FOR YOUTH**

**OHA strongly encourages applicants to share the opportunity with and seek support of a parent or guardian and/or other trusted adult (other adult family member, teacher, person of faith, youth worker or advocate, etc.) while serving on the council.** At this time, parental/guardian consent for youth participation is not required, as it is not required by state law, and OHA wants to provide the opportunity for all youth to participate. However, the council may discuss sensitive and difficult subjects (including trauma, mental health and other impacts of the pandemic). OHA will provide mentorship and support opportunities, and we will strongly encourage all youth applicants to involve their trusted adults/family and community support systems in the process.

First and Last Preferred Name Click or tap here to enter text.

Legal Name is Different than Preferred Name Click or tap here to enter text.

Pronouns Click or tap here to enter text.

Age Click or tap here to enter text.

Contact Information (\*=Required)

Caregiver/Guardian Contact Information: Click or tap here to enter text.

* + I consent to allowing the OHA YAC team to use this contact information to get ahold of me if I am not available or to share organizational announcements; i.e trips, events, opportunities. Check if applicable:

Address Click or tap here to enter text.

Address 2 Click or tap here to enter text.

\*City/Town Click or tap here to enter text.

\*State/Province Click or tap here to enter text.

\*County Click or tap here to enter text.

Zip/Postal Code Click or tap here to enter text.

Email Address Click or tap here to enter text.

Phone Number (This is important because emails sometimes bounce back) Click or tap here to enter text.

Emergency Contact Name Click or tap here to enter text.

Emergency Contact Number Click or tap here to enter text.

School you attend, if applicable Click or tap here to enter text.

Open Ended Questions

1. a.) What do you like to do in your free time? Do you participate in any community organization(s)? Are you a representative of a community organization(s)? Click or tap here to enter text.

1. b.) If yes, what organization(s)? Click or tap here to enter text.

2.) We aim to develop a youth advisory council with youth from a variety of backgrounds in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, immigration status, disability/ability, and lived experience in rural and metro communities. [RWR1]

a.) Please tell us a little about yourself.

b.) What lived experiences, identities, perspectives, skills, and/or knowledge would you like to share with us?

c.) What would you bring to the Oregon Health Authority Youth Advisory Council?

*400 words or less.*

Click or tap here to enter text.

3)  What is your availability throughout the school year? What do you see conflicting with an afternoon meeting from 4-6:30 on a weekday? Are there times throughout the year that you are potentially less available?  Click or tap here to enter text.

4) Are there any parts of this opportunity you are most excited for? Are there issues/topics related to public health that you feel excited to work on? If so, why? Click or tap here to enter text.

5) Accessibility and accommodation: The following question is optional and will only be use to better prepare OHA in providing accessible council activities.

We want to support you and your ability to participate. What supports or accommodations, if any, would you need to participate? Check all that apply and please include “none” or “NA” in the text box if not applicable.

Information technology (laptop, WiFi hotspot, etc)

Software or hardware for visual or audio accessibility

Interpretation services (including American Sign Language)

Other, please describe: Click or tap here to enter text.